

HIV PREVENTION PROGRAM

HIV prevention is the best strategy for reducing the human and economic toll from HIV/AIDS. Comprehensive HIV prevention is a broad term that incorporates tracking the epidemic through HIV/AIDS Surveillance system; research to identify causes and solutions; implementing effective, evidence based prevention intervention programs; building capacity of state and local programs; and program evaluation and policy development.

The goals of the Indiana HIV Prevention Program are to increase public understanding of, involvement in, and support for HIV prevention and through those efforts, reduce the number of new infections. The focus is on eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in new infections and prevention with HIV positives. Programs are implemented statewide through designated health departments and community-based organizations (CBOs). These agencies provide education and information to initiate modification of behavior patterns or practices that put persons at risk of HIV infection. Targeted populations include teenagers, men who have sex with men, women at risk (including pregnant women), substance users, needle sharers, prisoners, and individuals from racial and ethnic populations which are disproportionately affected by HIV Disease, and others at risk.

Counseling, Testing, and Referral Program

This statewide program coordinates the efforts of local HIV counseling and testing sites. The goal of the program is to prevent HIV transmission. It also serves to promote early detection of HIV infection and facilitate access to health care. The program ensures that partners have the opportunity to implement prevention strategies while gaining access to counseling, testing, and other services as appropriate.

HIV Prevention Community Planning Group (CPG)

This program brings together a statewide planning body composed of members infected and affected by HIV who may or may not be involved in HIV activities throughout the state. Membership may include interested persons involved in providing services and care to those with HIV disease, policy makers and persons/families directly impacted by this disease. The CPG planning group, utilizing the expertise of members, technical advisors, and in collaboration with the Indiana State Department of Health develops the Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan which serves as a guide to how prevention programs should most effectively respond to the HIV epidemic in Indiana.

Training and Development Program

This program provides training to the Division's staff, funded agencies, and community partners. It is the purpose of the Training & Development Program to educate and expand the ability of the clients to complete their tasks and functions resulting in improved productivity and product.

Capacity Building

The Capacity Building Assistance (CBA) Program within the Division of HIV/STD strives to assist community-based organizations and local health departments to increase and sustain their ability to deliver effective HIV prevention services throughout the state. The program's goal is to improve the performance of Indiana's HIV prevention workforce and includes the following areas: Strengthening Organizational Infrastructure, Strengthening Interventions for HIV Prevention, Strengthening Community Access to and Utilization of HIV Prevention Services, and Strengthening Community Planning for HIV Prevention. Once a need for CBA is identified, the assistance will be provided or organized by the CBA Program staff.

Comprehensive Risk Counseling & Services (CRCS)

Client-centered HIV prevention with the fundamental goal of promoting the adoption and maintenance of HIV risk-reduction behaviors by clients with multiple, complex problems and risk reduction needs; a hybrid of HIV risk-reduction counseling and traditional case management that provides intensive, ongoing, and individualized prevention counseling, support and service brokerage.

Perinatal HIV Project

The Perinatal HIV Project provides consultation, education, training and technical assistance to healthcare providers, women and consumers regarding HIV counseling, and testing to pregnant women and the prevention identification and care for women with HIV and their infants.

Routine HIV Testing in Medical Settings

The statewide assessment project on the implementation of routine HIV screening in hospital emergency departments is complete. Out of 114 surveys distributed to hospital Emergency Department Directors, 77 surveys were completed and submitted (approximately a 68% response rate). Copies of assessment findings are available upon request at ISDH, Division of HIV. On December 10, an updated presentation on findings from statewide assessment project was presented at ISDH. Copies of power-point presentation are available upon request as well.

In September 2007, Wishard and Methodist Hospitals, both urban inner city hospitals located in Indianapolis, began collaborating with MATEC (Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center). A combined task force comprised of hospital staff, including physicians, nurses, and representatives from community based organization were formed in an effort to implement an Emergency Department based routine HIV screening pilot project. The task force is developing protocols and procedures to ease implementation.